

Dear [REDACTED]

I write regarding the draft decision on Gate 1 for the Abingdon Reservoir proposal. As I am sure you appreciate the reservoir proposal would have a significant impact on the County. I am aware that a number of organisations and individuals have submitted their responses, and I share their concerns. Rather than submitting a written response I would like to ask RAPID to address the following directly with us before any further progress is made with this proposal:

1. The environmental impact of the reservoir: this includes the impact of its construction in terms of traffic movements, air quality, carbon emissions and total energy use in construction.
2. The effect on the local landscape, including the nearby AONB: the reservoir will dwarf nearby settlements with a bund that will be several times higher than the neighbouring homes, and will be visible from the Ridgeway. Proposed replanting of trees will not make up for the devastation to natural habitat that the removal of existing trees will cause
3. The displacement of the existing flood plain and subsequent flood risk: we do not believe that adequate account has been taken of the flood risk to local settlements which may result from the disturbance of existing water courses, especially in the light of the global acceleration of extreme rainfall events as a result of climate change.

I would appreciate an opportunity to engage with RAPID and Ofwat at the earliest opportunity, and would ask that we meet and discuss these issues before any further decisions are taken to progress plans for the reservoir.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

Councillor [REDACTED] Charlbury and Wychwood  
Leader, Oxfordshire County Council



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